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**Nation's oldest computer science conference hosted at UMM**

*Summary:*

(April 8, 2004)-One of the nation's oldest computer science conferences, focusing on sharing creative thinking about computer-related issues, will be held this year on the campus of the University of Minnesota, Morris.

The 37th Annual Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium (MICS) will take place April 16-17 on the Morris campus. Established in 1967 and formerly known as the Small College Computing Symposium, MICS is a regional conference designed to provide higher education participants "an educational experience focused on the integration of computer-based technology in the teaching and learning processes and the incorporation of the study of this technology in the curriculum."

"Our luncheon speaker is the well-known Eric Roberts, professor of computer science at Stanford University," said Andy Lopez, UMM professor of computer science. Roberts will speak on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. in Oyate Hall, UMM Student Center. "One of our own graduates, Kris Nelson, now a manager at US Bank, will give the opening address," said Dian Lopez, UMM associate professor of computer science and co-chair, with Andy, of the MICS conference.

Forty student papers and fifty faculty papers will be presented. UMM undergraduates will be presenting four of the student papers. "Originally, papers were presented only by faculty," said Andy Lopez. "Now, there are more opportunities for students to present."

A programming contest with 22 teams of undergraduates competing will take place on Friday night along with a Robotics contest added new this year where teams of students may compete in the programming of simple robots to complete a task correctly and in a timely fashion. About 200 participants from colleges and universities throughout the five-state area and beyond are expected to attend.

More information can be found at <http://mics.mrs.umn.edu>

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